*Cheyenne McCarthy*

*Philosophy of Education*

Throughout my years as an Education Major at the University of Maine at Farmington I have been asked to describe my philosophy of education. It had always been a challenge for me, it seemed to be that with every new philosopher I learned about, I also learned a new technique that I would like to incorporate into my own classroom. I found myself pulling bits and pieces from multiple philosophies, learning new techniques to use and what strategies I would rather stay away from. In doing this, I found myself with a hodgepodge of techniques, but when used together they seemed to make sense.

I strongly believe in learner-centered education. Our students’ needs should lay down the primary foundation of the classroom, student success can be directly correlated with their needs being met. When the needs of students are catered to, such as their multiple intelligence needs or their learning style needs, they can better achieve success. By catering to these types of needs, students better understand the content and they also express mastery of the content with more ease. I would much like to incorporate Mass Customized Learning into my future classroom. I enjoy the idea of having the “teacher pace” in which all students must meet that pace. With this teacher pace, it allows for students to go at a slow-normal pace, but it does not limit students who exceed that pace, it actually encourages it. With this type of learning atmosphere you can have students from all academic levels participating in one classroom, learning from one another. My role in this type of classroom setting would be that of a facilitator. I want to facilitate learning, I want to show my students that they themselves can find the answers within themselves or through research.

When it comes to content, I am very passionate about Health and Health Education. There are many aspects that come together to create the umbrella term of Health, and all of these aspects can be seen in our daily routine. Not only is health an influential factor on a daily basis, it effects each and every person from the moment they are conceived. Basic skills like cooking, budgeting, and managing your time and self are all categories within Health Education that are very important when entering adulthood. My goal is to hopefully provide students with the proper education that can make them well-informed, healthy individuals for life.

Although I described myself as the facilitator of my future classroom, I still see myself as a learner, too. I feel that throughout our entire lifetime we remain both a learner and a teacher, whether we so choose to be or not, it seems inevitable. I would have it no other way, though. If I ever cease learning or being creative or discovering new things about myself, that would surely be the sad end of me. I feel like that is the definition of being stuck in a rut. When you feel like you have nothing left to learn, when you get into the mindset of this is who I am and there is no changing that, that must be awful. I want to never stop learning for I am a student for life, just as I have been a teacher for my whole life and don’t plan on changing that now. I think this is one of the main reasons I have had this ever-changing philosophy. I constantly learn new ideas and concepts that jump out at me and I also learn that some concepts don’t really work for me. Still, I like to tackle each day with an open mind as both a learner and an educator.